

In the claims

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling a merge process of a plurality of nodes into a single-partition merged system comprising:

communicating by a user with a service processor of a predetermined boot node of the plurality of nodes to enter partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system, the partition configuration information specifying at least which of the plurality of nodes is to be a primary node of the single-partition merged system to be constructed and which of the plurality of nodes are to be secondary nodes of the single-partition merged system to be constructed;

storing the partition configuration information by the service processor of the boot node;

transmitting the partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system from the service processor of the boot node to service processors of predetermined secondary nodes of the plurality of nodes; and,

storing the partition configuration information by the service processor of each of the secondary nodes,

wherein the plurality of nodes are merged into the single-partition merged system that is configured based on the partition configuration information, each node having at least a primary processor other than the service processor of the node.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node without using a dedicated console.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises utilizing a web page user interface to communicate with the service processor of the boot node.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises utilizing a console management application to communicate with the service processor of the boot node.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at power-up of any of the plurality of nodes:

conveying the power-up to the service processor of the boot node; and,
starting up the single-partition merged system by the service processor of the boot node, including transmitting commands from the service processor of the boot node to the service processors of the secondary nodes to start up.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein power-up of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein power-up of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a power-up command by any of the plurality of nodes.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at power-down of any of the plurality of nodes:

conveying the power-down to the boot node;
shutting down the single-partition merged system by the boot node, including transmitting commands from the boot node to the secondary nodes to shut down.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein power-down of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein power-down of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a power-down command by any of the plurality of nodes.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at a reset of any of the plurality of nodes:

conveying the reset to the boot node;

resetting the single-partition merged system by the boot node, including transmitting commands from the boot node to the secondary nodes to reset.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein reset of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein reset of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a reset command by any of the plurality of nodes.

14.-26. (cancelled)